



*Mission:*

*The Office of Juvenile Justice protects the public by providing safe and effective individualized services to youth, who will become productive, law-abiding citizens.*



*Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary*

Another month has gone by and summer is over, school is back in and life takes on that faster pace that comes with the end of the lazy, crazy days of summer. Lazy? Never (wishful thinking, maybe). Crazy? Always. We are just always on the go, and I can tell just how busy you all have been while reading *The Inside Scoop...of OJJ*.

It's fair to say that you all work hard, and it's nice to know that on occasion, you can play hard, too. This issue is chock full of pictures of y'all enjoying a much-deserved celebration of Probation and Parole Officers Appreciation Week. Not to be outdone, secure care staff have done their best to provide outstanding opportunities for the youth while at the same time, having a good time themselves. In fact, it appears that staff often have their best times while making sure that the youth are being cared for. See page 25 for a note from a member of the team from Swanson, praising colleagues for assisting a youth in making his dream come true.

That's what you do - you have big hearts and you help our youth reach for the stars. But first, you show them the existence of the stars and point the way toward success. **OJJ, you rock!**

*"Doc" Dr. Mary L. Livers*



## Positive Purpose

Certain opportunities will come and go. Yet it is never too late and never too early to experience the richness of living with positive purpose.

Circumstances change from moment to moment, week to week, and year to year. And in every circumstance there are ways to find true fulfillment.

You can always make a difference. You can always make a valuable contribution.

By so doing, you connect yourself to life's greatest treasures. For the treasures that bring fulfillment are the ones you have a part in creating.

The joys of this golden moment are yours to live, no matter how you arrived here. For in this moment you have the opportunity to give the best of yourself.

This day is as fresh and wonderful and filled with opportunity as any you've ever known. Live it with positive purpose, and taste the richness you will surely create.

— Ralph Marston

## Staff Spotlight

### Spotlight on...

### PPO3 Delisa Clark Lake Charles Regional Office

**PPO3 Delisa Clark** has had an unusual career with OJJ. She arrived at the Lake Charles Office in 1994, after four years with DCFS (then DSS) in Support Enforcement Services. She left OJJ for another job some time later and was back at OJJ within six months. After her son was born in 2001, Delisa decided to stay at home with him for three years...and then when she was ready to return, there were no positions available. An opening materialized, and Delisa returned to OJJ the day before Hurricane Katrina struck Louisiana, and about two weeks before Hurricane Rita laid waste to Lake Charles.



"I keep coming back to OJJ because I feel this is where I am supposed to be," Delisa said.

"We pick on Delisa because she came to us about 16 years ago. She left briefly to go to a higher paying job and returned when we had an opening," said **RM Ann Vick**. "When she had her baby, Delisa left to be a stay-at-home mom, and when she was ready to return to work we had no vacancies. She went to work for another agency and transferred back here as soon as she was able. I've told her she can't leave and return again."

"Delisa is a dedicated worker and everyone relies on her," Ann continued. "One of her co-workers said it best: she provides excellent service to her clients, often going above the call of duty and without the need for recognition. Delisa has provided clothing, paid school fees, and done numerous other selfless acts that are not required. Her work product speaks for itself. She completes assignments in the allotted time period. She

completes all monthly contacts. She is also the Training Officer for the Lake Charles Office. Delisa, in my eyes, is the epitome of a team player. She responds when necessary and sometimes even before the request for assistance is made. Whether it be to answer the front desk phone, complete a transport for a fellow officer, or appear in court on short notice, she always seems to be there. Her willingness to volunteer extends beyond the walls of OJJ. She is a leader in her church and is heavily relied on to keep all activities organized. She is also a leader in her sorority and participates in numerous community service projects in Lake Charles through that organization."

*"Delisa...is the epitome of a team player. She responds ...sometimes even before the request for assistance is made."*

"I feel that I am destined to do this work," Delisa said. "It makes me feel close to God when I can mentor the kids and I use every opportunity to reach out to them in every way possible. I am always firm but fair with them, and I really do try to go above and beyond the basic requirements."

"Why is it that when you leave a job, He opens doors and you come back?" Delisa continued. "Another door opens and I'm back with this agency. Without a doubt, this is the work He wants me to do. And I really like the rewards."

Her approach to working with her clients is firmness and fairness. "The key thing is that I don't judge the kids," she said. "I meet them where they are, and I like all aspects of working with them. I like to sit back and talk with the kids, and develop a relationship and rapport with them. They have to feel they can trust me before they will disclose their issues. It can take longer to make progress with some

kids, so I will go beyond and work with the families. Sometimes they don't want that, sometimes they welcome it. When a youth is on probation, it affects the whole family, not just that child."

Delisa relates the story of one of her cases, a young lady considered ungovernable, with a very poor family history. "The youth used inappropriate language a lot," Delisa said. "Some time after she was released from supervision, I ran into her and heard her language. She immediately apologized and said she was sorry for her poor language. When she acknowledged that she had done something she was not supposed to do, I saw the fruit of my own labor. She respected me, and she had learned the correct behavior."

Delisa recounts that one Thanksgiving, she purchased some food for a family in need. "It's not for personal gain," she noted, "I was commissioned by God to follow the Golden Rule\*\*. I would want someone to do that for me if I were in the same condition."

*"I feel that I am destined to do this work...I got this job after graduation and found out this is my vocation."*

A native of Lake Charles, Delisa is a graduate of Lake Charles Boston High School. She initially majored in government at McNeese State University, intending to go to law school. She changed her major to criminal justice to have something to fall back on if needed, and she holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from McNeese. "I thought I'd be either a defense attorney or a prosecutor," she said. "I never thought I'd be a probation officer. But I got this job after graduation and found out this is my vocation."

Delisa and her husband have an 11 year old son that his mother calls "the greatest kid ever." "My son really is a great kid, a good

student, very compassionate,” she said. Her husband is a professor of Criminal Justice.

“I’m never leaving Lake Charles, because it’s near family and my church,” Delisa said. “I am an only child, and I’m very close to my family. I want to keep them close by.”

“I have a cousin who is the same age, and we grew up like sisters,” Delisa said. “Some people are just finding out that we are not really sisters. I have five other first cousins and we all have weekly gatherings at our grandmother’s house. She’s 89 years old and still very mobile. I am very blessed to have her, as well as two loving aunts. I lost my mother four years ago, and my dad died when I was a child. My grandmother is my rock.”

Delisa has attended the same church her entire life – Starlight Baptist Church – and she is very active and involved. “My philosophy is the same with my church, I am here to do God’s work and serve His people. The same holds true in my personal life as well as in my professional life.”

“That’s all part of the whole. I couldn’t make it without them. Possibly that is why the staff in the Lake Charles office click so well – we are really like one big family. When I left the child support office, I really questioned whether I had made the right decision. But you know, I truly love working at Lake Charles OJJ. We aim for hospitality, and I think we succeed.”

Among her community service projects are visits to nursing homes, the sick and shut-ins. Delisa also works with her church’s children’s ministry. “I have a passion for working with the younger kids,” she noted. “It’s important to hold on to these young children. They are challenging sometimes, but that’s the best work you can do. Even when we’re not in children’s church, some of the kids still sit with me. We are comfortable in each others’ presence.”

Living the Golden Rule and living the OJJ mission look one and the same for PPO3 Delisa Clark. She is a shining example of an

employee of our big, little agency - small in number but with a big heart. Delisa truly meets the mission and she succeeds with the Golden Rule as well.

***\*\* “Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.” - The Golden Rule***

## CQIS POLICY UPDATES

Policies approved in July:

A.3.2 Travel, 7/18/12

D.11.1 Predisposition Investigation and Social History, 7/30/12

## Agency News

### Dr. Livers Runs for ACA President-Elect



At its annual conference in Denver recently, American Correctional Association (ACA) leadership nominated **Deputy Secretary Dr. Mary Livers** to run for President-Elect

of the association.

She currently serves as ACA treasurer.

All members of ACA will be able to cast their votes this fall.

*Photos above and below by DAS Karen Stubbs.*





*Visiting at the ACA conference are, from left, Maryland Secretary of Corrections Gary Maynard, Dr. Livers, former Arkansas Director of Corrections Larry Norris, and former Oklahoma Director of Corrections Larry Fields.*



*From left, former Executive Director of the Texas Youth Authority Cherie Townsend, former Commissioner of the Pennsylvania Dept. of Corrections Reggie Williams, and Oregon Director of Corrections Collette Peters.*

### Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences to members of the OJJ family who have recently lost family members. Please keep these staff members in your thoughts and prayers.

Central Office **ACA Accreditation Manager Angela Arabie** recently lost her mother.

Central Office **Engineer Curtis Badon's** dear uncle, Gordon Lockhart, Jr., passed away recently.

Lafayette Social Services Counselor **Daronda Parker-Lathan** has lost her father, Joseph Ronald Parker.

New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Office **Social Worker Roxann Tuircuit** has lost her father, Michael Tuircuit, Sr.

### OJJ Receives Grant for Mentor Services

OJJ was awarded a grant from the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund for a faith-based and community team mentoring initiative that will pair youth exiting OJJ secure facilities with a team of mentors. The grant will provide training, support and assistance with mentor recruitment. The goal of the initiative is to increase the number of youth who acquire employment or return to school after their full term date with OJJ and to improve family relationships among the participants, along with decreasing recidivism.

### Alexandria Regional Office

During Officer Appreciation Week, staff enjoyed a mid-week luncheon with parish probation officers as well as several local providers. On Friday, staff enjoyed a meal, cake, ice cream and goodies provided by several supervisors and staff members. Everyone enjoyed the variety of activities provided throughout the day.

**Administrative Coordinator 4 Sharon Graham** assisted Natchitoches OJJ's **PPS Simon Sarpy** with interviews for their vacant Administrative Coordinator 4 position.

On an August Saturday, several staff members and their families participated in an OJJ Family Fun Day at Kincaid Lake. Staff enjoyed water sports and boat riding, as well as a picnic. We look forward to doing it again next year.

**PPOs Kristen Hebert and Mekensie Maxwell** are attending the Alexandria Police Academy, August through November. They have been preparing themselves by running, exercising at the gym, doing sit-ups and push-ups. We wish them much success.

## Congratulations...

...to **PPO Heath Wallace** and his wife, Lindsey, on the birth of their third child, a healthy 9 lb., 5 oz., boy named **Aubrey William Wallace**.

## Baton Rouge Regional Office

The wait is finally over! Baton Rouge OJJ is finally moved into our newly remodeled building and boy, does it look good! We now have a mailroom that is more convenient to the officers and administrative staff, and the new conference room is going to be a great place for training, meetings, and occasional office gatherings. There is a lot of storage space, the new waiting area was exceptionally well-thought out and will be a very functional space for our arriving guests.

The offices are bright and inviting and we are sure it won't be long before everyone has incorporated a little piece of home into their space.

It is truly refreshing to be back into our own spaces, and the transition was a pleasant learning experience. We learned a lot about ourselves and each other being in such close quarters daily.



*The new conference room*



*Left, the administrative coordinator's office.  
Right, the hallway.*



*The new mailroom*

## Happy Birthday

The staff recognized **PPO Naomi Rodney's** birthday. We wish you many, many more.

## Farewell

The Baton Rouge Office said a bittersweet farewell to **PPO Brandon Woods**. Brandon has been a valued member of the Baton Rouge team for almost four years and was a wonderful asset to the agency. Brandon will be missed by all of us, but we wish him the best of luck in his new endeavor, with the Baton Rouge City Police Department.

## Congratulations

**PPO Courtney Dickerson** began the EBR Capital Area Regional Training Academy (CARTA). Courtney will be away for 12 weeks of training to become a POST-certified officer. We wish her the best of luck and we cannot wait until her graduation!

An iris in SCY  
Adm. Asst.  
**Kristi  
Walker's**  
garden.



## Bridge City Center for Youth

The BCCY Education Department would like to extend a warm thank-you to everyone who supported us during our Annual Awards Day celebration.

I want to give a very special thank you again to **Instructor Christopher Mayes**, for his expertise in making the program a grand affair. I want to thank all of the staff and students who assisted Christopher.

Also, another very special thank you goes out to **Chef Ron Sonnier** and his crew. Chef always knows how to put the icing on the cake.

The education department works very hard each and every day. Your daily assistance and support are needed and appreciated.

Working together, we can hope to see positive changes in our youths.

Sincerely,  
**Sandra S. Frazier, Interim Principal**

## Education Department Celebrates Student Success

The education department recently celebrated the accomplishments of youth during the 2011 – 2012 school year. Several youth earned certificates recognizing their academic and behavior achievements. Mathematics **Teacher Jennifer Campbell** opened the ceremony with an inspirational rendition of “I Just Can’t Give Up Now” which led students into a man-to-man session with **Mr. Bobby Tinner of Social Services**. His message of “making choices, changing lives,” resonated with youth for weeks following the presentation. Additionally, the education department honored three students who earned their Graduate Equivalency Diplomas (GEDs) over the summer, and youth who earned their National ServeSafe Certification through the Culinary Arts Program. **Chef**

**Ron Sonnier** presented these youth with medals and certificates. The Culinary Arts class provided refreshments for youth and staff for the honors program, but the true treat of the evening was our students’ success.



*Left, some of the goodies served. Right, Chef Sonnier with Rondell S. Below from left, Chef Sonnier, Shawn B., Lamont R., Larry W. and Kendrick W.*



*Left, Chef Sonnier and Culinarian Larry W., and right, with Culinarian Elijah N., receiving their ServSafe Certification certificates during the recent honors ceremony.*

## Culinary Arts News

We attended the recent *Louisiana Restaurant Association and Hospitality Expo* at the Ernest Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. The students were exposed to all aspects of the food business, where they visited over 500 booths at the largest food expo on the Gulf Coast, attended by over 11,000 guests. The



youth were exposed to an unbelievable array of varieties of fruits, vegetables and other food items. They left the show completely full of all the wonderful tastes of the world. They brought back a huge array of samples to enjoy in the classroom.



*Students and escorts who attended the Louisiana Restaurant Association Food Expo were Group Leader Keith Joseph, Christopher T., Rondell S., Kendrick W., Lamont R., Title One Director Ed Green, Chef Ron Sonnier and Elijah N.*



*Top, an array of foods at the Food Expo. Below, some of the great products we returned with after the LA. Restaurant Food Expo.*



*Chef Sonnier presents Culinarian Christopher T. with a certificate as new Lead Student, as he takes the responsibility to mentor other students in the class.*



*The Culinary students with Chef Sonnier. Pictured are Christopher T., Elijah N., Larry W. and Shawn B.*



*Left, Culinarian Christopher T. has become quite the class decorator. He is very proud of this cake made for his caseworker, S. Alexander-Marshall. Right, Culinarian Elijah N. is ready to serve up this beautiful tossed salad he helped prepare.*



## Church Presents Live Play for BCCY Youth

Cornerstone Christian Center and their talented cast performed a live play, "The Bible Speaks," for the young men at Bridge City Center for Youth. The story depicted a mother who worked very hard to ensure her young son understood God's grace, his goodness, and man's communication with God.



The group offered a multitude of characters, as they delighted and amazed the crowd with their modern rendition of the Bible, from the Creation to Abraham's faith, to King David's throne and restoration. The main character (the mother) captured the attention of the audience when she sang the lyrics, "Running Back to You" by Fred Hammond. The story and music created a picture that allowed the youth to easily follow, while engaging in the performance with the cast. It also permitted all who watched, to understand her determination. What a treat for BCCY!



*Pets....give you a lift when you're down.*

## Central Office



*Some of OJJ attendees at the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCI) conference held in New Orleans included Family Liaison Donna Bowie, Director of Health Services Kelly Smith, Sex Offender Treatment Coordinator, Psychologist Dr. Yolanda Crump, Deputy Assistant Secretary/Community-Based Services Carolyn Lewis and Director of Education Kim Mims.*

## Hammond Regional Office

### A Week of Celebrations for Officer Appreciation

Officer Appreciation Week was a busy week...full of PARTYING!

We showed our appreciation for the hard work and excellent job our PPOs do all year round by presenting them with a special treat each day.

Monday we had snack cakes, Tuesday ice cream was served, Wednesday was Nacho Day, and breakfast was served on Thursday, along with "appreciation stars."

### Summer Fun

**PPO3 Penny Buniff** worked with State Police Troop L to enable some of the youth under OJJ supervision to attend their summer youth

camp. Youth on the caseloads of **PPO1 Sarah Gilberti**, **PPO3 Christy Ford** and **PPO2 Jennifer Sirchia** attended.

The youth enjoyed a week of fun activities - they visited the Global Wildlife Center, went fishing, took a tour of the National Weather Service office, participated in a safety class, played laser tag and glow-in-the-dark golf, and visited Fountainebleau State Park.

### Farewell and Best Wishes

Hammond OJJ recently celebrated **Administrative Coordinator 2 Janice Lewis'** retirement. Janice has MANY years of service with the State, so many in fact, that even SHE can't remember how long she's been employed! The staff held a luncheon in her honor and shared stories. Janice has been a staple in the Hammond OJJ office and the office won't be the same without her.



*Janice Lewis's retirement celebrated.*

### What's Going On...

**PPO2 Jonathan Varnado** reports that three youth from his caseload graduated from Slidell City Drug Court. One youth plans to graduate from high school and wants to work at Sea World when she's old enough. Another youth plans to obtain his GED and then pursue a career as a firefighter in Slidell. The other youth plans to graduate from Slidell High School and then attend college.

Jonathan also reported that the Drug Court team planned to travel to visit Odyssey House in New Orleans, Cavanaugh Treatment

Center near Bossier City and New Beginnings in Opelousas.

**PPO2 Jamie Oertel** reports that a youth on her caseload was released early from supervised probation due to good behavior.

**PPO1 Julie Church** tells us that a youth from her caseload graduated from the Youth Challenge Program.

### Back to School Resource Fair

The staff who cover the Hammond area, **PPOs Mark Benton, Danielle August, Kasey Wall, Sarah Gilberti**, and **PPS Dawnita Hodge**, came together and purchased school supplies and lollipops for the "7th Ward Back to School Resource Fair." The community youth who came to the fair visited different tables and received items and information from each agency that was represented.

OJJ's table was set up with the OJJ flag, pamphlets about drug awareness and other important topics, and a "board of lollipops." Each youth who visited the OJJ table picked a lollipop and received a school supply item (the lollipops were color coded for the respective school item that they won). Over 250 school supplies were given away by the Hammond unit this year! They believe it was a great success and a fun way to start off the school year!



*At the Hammond Back to School Fair are, from left, PPO1 Sarah Gilberti, PPS Dawnita Hodge, PPO3 Mark Benton, PPO3 Kasey Wall and PPO3 Danielle August.*

## Gosh, It's Been Hot!

Hammond OJJ braved the 107 degree heat index for quarterly firearms training.



*Hammond OJJ staff at the range.*

## Staff Spotlight

By SSCIV Lori Wagner



**PPO1 Parker Boyd** joined the Hammond OJJ team in March. Although he's only been on the job for a few months, he has learned many new skills that assist him in meeting OJJ's mission.

He has been attending court, supervising youth on his caseload, and gaining knowledge of needed services in his geographical area where his caseload is centered.

Parker also recently became a licensed pilot. His dedication and determination have paid off after much hard work and countless hours. His background is in psychology with a minor in criminal justice. He shared one of his favorite quotes with us: "A pessimist

complains about the wind; an optimist expects the wind to change; a realist adjusts the sails."

Welcome aboard Parker, and thank you for all you do to continue to meet the mission!

## From Social Services

### Social Service Counselor IV Lori Wagner

has four youth enrolled in a brief substance abuse group (Motivational Enhancement Therapy and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for adolescents) and she reports that all are doing well.

Two of the members returned to the community after an inpatient treatment program, one was recently released from detention, and one was released from secure care before participation in the group. All four of the young men have remained clean for a month or more! Their hard work, dedication and implementation of the new skills they are learning are paying off.

Lori also participated in a webinar on "The Impact of Trauma on the Developing Child" through the Office of Women's Health, with Dr. Bruce Perry.

Also, Lori and a DCFS caseworker recently collaborated to get a youth accepted into the Youth Challenge Program. What a great example of coordinating care throughout the systems!

## On a Mission

### By PPO3 Wendy Clark

I recently went with Soul's Harbor Church as a part of a joint effort of its Mission and several other local congregations who are joining together to help build a church in Chateaux, Haiti. We toured the Servants of All orphanage outside Port au Prince, and a school in the mountain area of El Diamante that has been educating about 200 children for the last year without being able to pay the teachers.



We are partnering together to try to find solutions to multiple issues they face, such as the church meeting under a thatched hut with no real building, no running water, running lights from a donated generator with gas at over \$4 per gallon, no bathroom facilities, not enough food, the school not being able to pay their teachers, helping the pastor sell his DELICIOUS Haitian coffee that he produces himself, or find an organization to purchase the mission so the school will not close.

We spent a week there doing children's ministry, showing them love, and sharing Christ's love for them. They are really sweet kids and for all they lack, they have **JOY**. These children are just happy to be alive.

Other than food and water, they don't really care about what they don't have or that someone has more than them. They don't care that they don't have shoes or that their clothes were all someone else's before they were theirs. They think nothing of walking five miles to go to church or that they wear the same outfit to church every Sunday because it's the only "church clothes" they have. Never one time did I smile and wave at a passing stranger that they did not break out the biggest smile they could and wave like their hand was going to fall off, adults and children alike. I found this so refreshing.

As I have been told several times by others who have done missions, I went to give to those in need and ended up receiving as much of what I needed, if not more, than was given.

It is an experience I wish all of our society could experience as I believe that for most, it would be life-changing.



*Pets....protect the young.*

## Jetson Center for Youth

### Another School Year Begins at Scenic Alternative High School

The **2012-2013** school year began in August with a renewed spirit. Several new staff persons have joined the faculty and embraced the juvenile justice vision and mission. They are eagerly learning the student body and beginning to develop positive relationships. The school principal, **Mr. Ronnie B. Knox**, is happy to start off the school year with all of the positions filled.

The new staff members are **Latafta Miles, social studies teacher**, and **substitute teachers Felicia Gibson and Jade Williams**.

**Transition coordinator Adrain Skipper, auto mechanics instructor Ronnie Frioux and substitute teacher Leona McCastle** are returning for another year. These staff members provide valuable services to the students.

With each new school year, a facelift is in order. **Andrea Barnardez, Sunshine teacher**, and **Demetria Sheppard, SSD para-educator**, orchestrated new themes and redecorated the hallways. **Kimberly Ringgold, English teacher**, and **Jade Williams and Felicia Gibson, substitute teachers**, organized and decorated the library.

Teachers also choose a theme for their classrooms and have new and exciting bulletin board displays. All of these new themes are not only attractive but also are conducive to learning. You can hear the students make positive comments when they enter the school building.

Mr. Knox is anticipating an exciting school year with many success stories to tell. Already, there are five students ready to take the GED exam. Mr. Knox praised the entire faculty for their efforts toward making the school an inviting learning environment.

## The Jetson Four Are Rescued and Find New Homes

By Denise Clause, Life Skills Instructor

One day recently as I walked through the gate in Area 3, several youth were anxiously awaiting my arrival, and couldn't wait to show me what was waiting on the other side of the fence.

Inside the fenced area of Autumn Dorm, all huddled up together were three very tiny baby kittens. Not only had these baby kittens lost their mittens, but they also lost their mama. It was obvious that she had abandoned her kittens, or that something had happened to her.

As I approached the fence line I felt a sense of dread....what to do? With temperatures expected to rise to 100 degrees that day, I knew they would not make it through the day.



*The Jetson 4*



**Delmius B.** immediately said that there was a "dead kitten" several feet away from the other kittens. My heart fell to my feet; I don't do well around "expired animals," whether I

know them or not. I instructed Delmius to go and get the other one so we could check to see if it was still alive. Much to our surprise and happiness, it was hanging on to dear life.

A fiesty little kitten from the group of three was hissing at us, trying his hardest (all MAYBE a pound of him) to keep us at bay so he could protect his siblings.

Long story short (very long story) **JJS M. Gereads** and **JJS Wilfred Mack** were instrumental in helping to get the kittens into a box and were so very caring and helpful. Those kittens would not have made a safe departure without their guidance and support.

I showed Delmius B. how to warm and test milk for the kittens. He helped care for them until I could take them off campus. Of course, we had to name a kitten Delmius.

I was a foster mother to three male kittens and one female, the one we thought had expired. She was the last to be weaned off the bottle and is a beautiful tabby.

We figure they were only about four or five weeks old when found. My wonderful neighbor cared for the kittens and bottle-fed them until they could eat from a bowl. She kept two and we found good, loving homes for the other two.

The kittens will be fine, and our youth learned a valuable lesson in compassion and caring for helpless little creatures.



*Adm. Asst. Cynthia Booker and Instructor Denise Clause ran into each other recently at the Ringling Brothers Circus. Pictured from left are a member of the circus, Denise, Cynthia and her grandson.*

### BCCY Meets JCY for a Spirited Basketball Tournament



**Jetson was the victor!!!  
Bridge City vows to return next year and  
capture the title!**

### Lafayette/Opelousas Regional Office

The Lafayette Region celebrated Probation and Parole Officers Appreciation Week in style.

The supervisors treated the probation officers to a homemade breakfast on Monday morning, to kick the week off.

Tuesday saw staff enjoying lunch from Zea Restaurant with Phoenix Family Life Centers, an MST provider.



*The Phoenix Family Life Centers staff.*



*Door prize winners-door prizes were also given out to some extra-lucky officers.*

Lunch was provided by the supervisors on Wednesday...and on Thursday, the party really started, with a day in the park.

The competition began when each unit went head to head in volleyball, kickball and horseshoes. In a note sent out to all staff later that day, **RM Susan Miller** commented, "When staff comes together, both in work and in play, it makes for a strong team. Being part of a team is important, and that's what today's event was about. It's important to work together, it's important to support one another, and it's important to model for one another."

The team headed by **PPS Chris Potier** emerged victorious, but OJJ was the real winner, with such a stellar staff!





*Front: PPS Chris Potier; rear from left, PPO Jamie Baronet, PPO Jody Osmer, TO Chris St. Julien and PPO Bobby Jesset.*



*The Lafayette Region staff at Girard Park*

The week-long celebration ended Friday with staff enjoying popcorn and more team building events. Lafayette/Opelousas staff would like to thank **RM Miller**, **PPS Courtney Holderman**, **PPS Joey Denais**, **PPS Ernest Bejeaux**, **PPS Chris Potier**, **PPS Tracy Flores**, **PPS Beth Broussard**, **PPS Sharon Guillory**, **Adm. Sup. Cheryl Denais**, and **PPS Robert Guirard** for a great week.

### Farewell

The Lafayette Region bid farewell to **PPO3 Cassie Gardiner** and **PPO3 Mina Travis**. Cassie leaves OJJ to pursue a career with

another agency, and Mina retires with over 20 years of service. Their leadership and expertise will be greatly missed!

### Congratulations...

...to **PPO3 Ronald Rogers** for being selected **Officer of the Quarter**. **RM Susan Miller** thanked Ronald for his professionalism and dedication to the youth and families we serve, as well as, to the Lafayette Region. **RM Miller** presented Ronald with a plaque and a gift card.



*PPO3 Ronald Rogers with his supervisor, PPS Courtney Holderman.*

...to **PPO1 Jeff Edwards** and **PPO1 Seth Richard**. Both officers started the St. Martin POST academy. We wish them the best of luck and look forward to them returning to the office.

### Thanks...

...to **PPO3 Wanda Sylvester** and **PPO3 Kristi Credeur** for providing CPR and First Aid training to new employees on July 26<sup>th</sup>. It was a great class.

"Being nice to someone you don't like is not the definition of being two-faced. It's the definition of being mature."

- From an OJJ Staff Member

## Lake Charles Regional Office



### Probation & Parole Appreciation Week

was observed in style. The employee entrance featured a red carpet and an "appreciation" banner to greet the employees on Monday

morning. On Wednesday, we had a potluck meal of finger foods and declared a relaxation /de-stress day (movies, giggles, visiting, reading, etc). Personalized, hand-written, notes of appreciation were given to recognize employees' individual contributions. Other small daily tokens of appreciation were given within the respective units.



*Above, tokens of appreciation greeted the PPOs during Probation and Parole Appreciation Week.*

## Goings On....

**PPOs Garrick Chambers, Fred Fontenot, and Ronald Gilchrist** recently demonstrated the character count of the month (citizenship) through a facility basketball game. Physical fitness is maintained, we model the way, and the youth are reached (personally touched) in these moments. Summer is HOT in Southwest Louisiana, but the goal achieved in this interaction is worth a little sweat to these three dedicated PPOs.

Our three **SAVRY Master Trainers** recently met to revise our region's SAVRY Matrix, due to the start of the new fiscal year and changes in OJJ contracts. This was a chore, but they are thorough and comprise a good team! The results were worth the effort.

**PPS Melissa Cross** and one of her **dedicated PPOs** recently met at the Beauregard District Attorney's Office to review the new MST (Multi-Systemic Therapy) Program offered through Methodist Children's Home in Sulphur. **District Attorney David Burton** and the other professionals appreciated OJJ's participation in this meeting and it demonstrated our collaborative efforts.

**PPO Garrick Chambers** and **PPS Ken Vidrine** attended the recent Allen Parish Children and Youth Planning Board meeting. We learned that **Shelly Hamilton**, a great asset in the Allen Parish District Attorney's Office, had resigned. She is already missed.



**PPO Jeff Haley** has returned from "paternity leave" and/or his annual vacation. Welcome back, Jeff. **Jacob**

**Tyler Haley** is a beautiful baby boy! Thanks for bringing him to visit! *Pictured are Jeff's two sons, Baby Jacob and Zachary, almost 5.*

One of our staff members became a "**Gigi**" on July 10. Her door was decorated with blue balloons to celebrate the arrival of a beautiful grandson.

**PPO Hollie Comeaux** had great success in the supervision of **Brooke B.** This youth earned her GED through successful completion of the Youth Challenge Program (YCP). Hollie had to maintain collaborative efforts with DCFS and utilize combined resources to assist this young lady in attaining her successes. The reward was that early release was granted due to the amount of success this youth exhibited. Great effort put forth by PPO Hollie Comeaux.

**PPO Hollie Comeaux** continues to utilize the Working Together for Families (WTF) process to seek services for one of her most high-need cases. Through this case, she has sought services through WTF, Interagency Services Coordination (ISC), Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) for Southeastern Hospitalization, Functional Family Therapy (FFT), etc. Hollie is being challenged but is rising to the challenge. Keep running the marathon, Hollie....we're proud of you.

**PPO Jeff Haley** met with Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) professionals to discuss and formulate action steps to once again encourage regular meetings of the Cameron Parish Children and Youth Planning Board. Another meeting is planned with Cameron Parish officials. We are optimistic that we can re-light that fire.

**PPO Angela Stevens** experienced a success story when one of her juveniles was granted early release from supervision as a result of diligent efforts.

**PPO Jeff Haley** earned kudos from **Judge Guy Bradberry** for a thorough, detailed, and positive court letter regarding **Stormy T.** (a former challenging case who has come a long way).

Good luck to **Landon Comeaux** and **Zachary Haley**, sons of **PPO Hollie Comeaux** and **PPO Jeff Haley**, respectively, as they leave daycare and begin "big kids' school" as KINDERGARTENERS! (We are watching these babies grow up too fast!)

## Monroe Regional Office

**RM Patty Newman**, along with her Supervisors and Program Specialist **Walteree Barnes**, celebrated Probation & Parole Week with staff by providing food and fun throughout the week. Officers were treated to a Mexican lunch and an ice cream party. We had some friendly competition, with **PPS Linda William's** Unit crowned as champions. PPOs played a game of musical chairs, which provided prizes and much entertainment. **RM Newman, PPS Linda Williams, PPS Karl Wallace, PPS Orlando Davis, and PPS Gail Wilson** would like to thank our Probation Officers at Monroe OJJ for their dedication and excellent job performance, often under difficult conditions. **Thanks guys, you're the BEST!!!**



*From left, PPOs Jeremy Keyes, Cheryl Keyes, Hannah Dozier, Valerie Nordstrom and Jeremy Fox enjoy Mexican stack-ups.*



*Left, PPO3 David McMillan can smell a doughnut a mile away. PPO2 Garner Brass fixes a taco (the first of many).*





*PPS Linda Williams and PPO3 Cheryl Keyes take a break with some ice cream.*

### What's Happening

Monroe OJJ staff recently received training in CSoC from **DAS Karen Stubbs** and **CSoC Liaison Jacqueline Page**.

**PPO3 Gary Hunter** and **PPS Orlando Davis** recently attended Emergency Response Team Meetings at Swanson. The meetings were a collaborative effort between OJJ Field Emergency Response Members and SCY Emergency Response Members.

**Program Specialist Walteree Barnes** and **PPS Linda Williams** provided placement training during the monthly staff meeting.

**PPS Linda Williams** conducted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Safety Meeting. She presented information on "Lightning Safety."

**PPO3 Erica Hollingsworth** conducted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Safety Committee Meeting. Those in attendance included **RM Patty Newman**, **PPS Karl Wallace**, **PPS Gail Wilson**, **PPO3 Jennifer Bible**, **PPO3 Willie Hunter**, **PPO2 Jeremy Fox** and **AC3 Kashka Flintroy**.

### Braggin' Rights on our Kids

**PPO Jackie Kindrix** would like to brag about one of her youth, **Kaden P.** Kaden graduated from the National Guard Youth Challenge Program at Camp Minden. He passed his GED with an average score of 546, and was awarded "Cadet of the Cycle" out of 212

cadets. Congratulations to Kaden, and good job, Jackie.

**PPO2 Reginald Chaptman** has a success story to share. **Jaquarius C.** recently graduated. He received awards in soccer, track and field, and was second team all district in football. Jaquarius has already been sworn into the U.S. Navy, but will not enter until October. Jaquarius says he wanted to join the Navy because he likes traveling and loves water. He is planning to attend college while in the Navy, and he is considering majoring in mechanical engineering. In the meantime, until he leaves for the Navy, Jaquarius is employed as a lifeguard. His mother is so proud her son has turned his life around, and now has a promising future. Good luck, Jaquarius, and good job, Reggie.

### Natchitoches Regional Office

#### Congratulations Employee of the Month



**PPO3 Ashley Meacham**

### Community Involvement

Natchitoches OJJ staff was recognized during Probation and Parole week for their dedication and hard work. Breakfast and lunch were provided by the supervisors along with community providers from throughout the parish. On Wednesday, the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office treated Natchitoches OJJ to a luncheon at the Community Service building. **PPS Simon Sarpy** and **PPOs**

Deanna Williams, Ieisha Beasley, Chris Wyatt, Brenda Sarpy, Kelvin Jones, Heather Christophe and Ashley Meacham attended the event, along with other local law enforcement officers and staff. Pictured below are scenes from our celebration.



*Natchitoches OJJ PPO2 Ieisha Beasley and PPO2 Deanna Williams.*



*Left, Natchitoches OJJ PPO2 Kelvin Jones and PPS Simon Sarpy. Right, Adult PPO2 Joseph Black, and Natchitoches OJJ PPO2 Heather Christophe.*



*Natchitoches OJJ PPO3 Ashley Meacham and PPO2 Brenda Sarpy.*



*Natchitoches OJJ, Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office and Adult Probation and Parole staff.*



*Merry Byers and Doris Kochinsky, of the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office, Office of Community Services, and Natchitoches OJJ's PPO3 Christopher Wyatt.*



*Carolyn Jackson, Mary Jones, Natalie Brown-Denby, all of the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office, Office of Community Services.*

### Congratulations...

...to **Wendy Crow**, who has been promoted to the position of Administrative Coordinator 4.

### Training Conducted at Ware Youth Center

**Program Specialist Monique LaCour** and **PPO Deanna Williams** conducted PREA training for the Ware Youth Center Intensive Residential program. Participants included both residents and staff assigned to the IR program. Included in the presentation were the expectations of youth and staff regarding PREA standards. The interactive training concluded with a question and answer session to ensure that everyone understood the PREA standards.



*Above and below, PS Monique LaCour and PPO2 Deanna Williams conduct PREA training at Ware Youth Center.*



**PPS Simon Sarpy** traveled to Avoyelles Parish and enjoyed in assisting with judging a barbecue contest. Simon also assisted in judging a 4H show at Ike Hamilton Arena in West Monroe, Ouachita Parish,

**PS Monique LaCour** attended the annual LAMOD residential facility meeting at the Alexandria OJJ office. Representatives of Ware Youth Center also attended this training.

**PS Monique LaCour's** children, **Monét and James**, along with the Patriotic Project Youth Choir, performed at the closing ceremony of the International Kiwanis Convention at the Ernest Morial Convention Center in New Orleans. The children are members of the Patriotic Project Youth Choir, which includes youth from the Cane River Community, Baton Rouge and New Orleans.



*Monét and James are pictured below with Dr. Valerie Francis, Patriotic Project Youth Choir's Executive Artistic Director, in the center.*



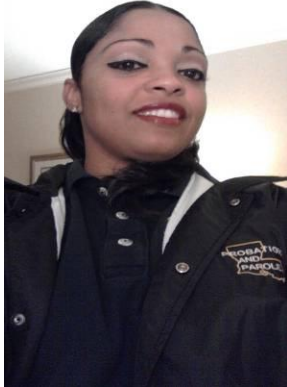
*We celebrated PPO2 Todd Roszell's birthday with cake and ice cream during a recent staff meeting.*



## New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Office

### Congratulations

#### Employee of the Month



**PPO2 Nakia Harris** was chosen **Probation Officer of the Month** for many reasons, but ultimately for going the extra mile for the youth we serve in our community. Nakia is a team player who is

dedicated to her clients, making sure they are receiving the best services possible. She is a valuable asset to her team. Congratulations Nakia! Job well done!

### Making a Difference

**PPO Daria Melder** participated with the Beacon Light International Baptist Cathedral in its monthly outreach program to meet the needs of those less fortunate. The deacon ministry fed the homeless and distributed clothing and toiletry items. Those who received the items were very grateful for the assistance offered to them in their time of need. It is important that we reach out to those who are most often looked down upon and forgotten by society. They are still our sisters, brothers, mothers, fathers, nieces and nephews - we must never forget!

### OJJ/Youth Empowerment Seminar Essence Festival

The Essence Fest was truly positive for our youth. **Social Worker Roxann Tuircuit, PPS Paulette Carter** and **Program Specialist Joseph Powe** attended the festival with several OJJ youth. This activity was essential as we work toward transforming our youths'

lives. We hope to make positive changes, one day at a time.



*Above and below, the OJJ/YEP Essence Festival.*



### Congratulations



We take great pride in saying "congratulation and job well done" to **PPO Tanice Henley**, who received her Master's degree in counseling from the University of New Orleans. New Orleans OJJ is delighted by her accomplishment.

## Shreveport Regional Office

### Congratulations Employee of the Month

**PPO3 Brandy Stratton/Graham**

### Training Attended

Shreveport OJJ staff received training on CsoC provided by **DAS Karen Stubbs** and **CSoC Liaison Jacquelyn Page**.

### Probation and Parole Appreciation Week

We had a week of celebration and appreciation as we observed Probation and Parole Week. Supervisory staff worked hard to plan a variety of fun activities and treats for the officers. Tuesday, **LPC John Gianforte** sent breakfast treats; Wednesday supervisory staff served breakfast in the conference room; Thursday we met at Holiday Lanes for a team bowling tournament and returned to the office for a pizza party. There were treats and surprises every day to thank our officers for all they do.



*Shreveport OJJ office during P&P week.*

*Following is a photo gallery of our bowling tournament.*



*RM Kristi Martin and PPO3 Brandy Stratton/Graham bowling during P&P week.*



*Left, PPO3 Brandy Stratton/Graham and Transport Officer Amanda Lummus. Below, PPS Guy May having a good time bowling.*



*Left, PPS Terri Harber and PPO2 Holly Black.*



*Above, PPO3 John Whitlock and PPO3 Sandy Ersoff. Right, PPO1 Sterling Newsom.*





*Left, PPS Rick Ladner and PPO2 Jessica Flores. PPO1 Cornealious McSwain.*



*Left, PPO1 Jason Brown. Right, PPS Rick Lander and PPO3 Brandy Stratton/Graham.*



*Left, PPO1 Ciera Murphy and PPO1 Jacqueline Dixon enjoying P&P week bowling. Right, PPO3 Charles Herrmann enjoying a snack between bowling sessions.*

*Left, PPS Steve Martino and PPO3 Fabrecia Roberson. Right, PPO3 Jennifer Hill having a snack in between bowling.*



*Left, Transport Officer Amanda Lummus enjoying P&P week bowling. Below right, PPS Kim Carlisle.*



*Left, PPO3 Alan Glover and PPO3 Fabrecia Roberson. Right, PPO1 Sterling Newsom and PPO1 Jason Brown.*



*PPO1 LaToya Sherman, PPO3 Kristen McKee and Transport Officer Kelly Meinrod.*





*Left, PPO3 Alan Glover. Right, PPO 3 Todd Carlisle cheering his bowling team on.*



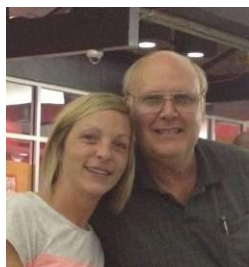
*PPS Guy May, having some fun bowling. Right, PPO3 Dwain Wilemon having some fun bowling.*



*Left, Todd Carlisle, and right, PPO2 Jarred Cram.*



*Transport Officer Charles Davis eying that cake.*



*PPS Steve Martino and PPO3 Fabrecia Roberson enjoying a visit during bowling for P&P week. PPO3 Brandy Stratton/Graham and PPO3 John Whitlock enjoying a break from bowling.*



*Above and below, enjoying pizza and cake at the Shreveport office.*

*Left, Transport Officer Kelly Meinrod bowling, and right, enjoying some pizza.*



## Training Attended

Shreveport OJJ staff attended a training seminar sponsored by U.S. Attorney, Western District of Louisiana, Stephanie A. Finley; Caddo Parish Sheriff Steve Prator; Chief Rebecca Chiles, LSU-Shreveport Police Department; U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Louisiana Henry L. Whitehorn and the Regional Organized Crime Information Center. The seminar featured LTC Dave Grossman's presentation "Lessons from Jonesboro, Littleton and Vietnam: How Kids are Learning to Kill and Learning to Like It." Grossman is an internationally recognized scholar, author and speaker, who is considered one of the world's foremost experts in the field of human aggression and the roots of violence.

Those who attended included **PPO3 Kristin McKee, PPS Terri Harber, PPS Guy May, PPS Steve Marino, PPS Rick Ladner, PPO3 Charles Hermann, PPO3 Todd Carlisle, PPO3 Dwain Wilemon, PPO3 John Whitlock, PPO3 Lanita Lars, Transport Officer Kelly Meinrod and Transport Officer Charles Davis.**

## Recent Birthdays Celebrated

Transport Officer Charles Davis, PPS Steve Martino, PPO3 Alan Glover and Transport Officer Kelly Meinrod.

## Swanson Center for Youth

### A Word from Social Worker Ms. Shyne

**Social Worker Charlotte Shyne** recently moved to OJJ from CCS. Soon after her transition, she helped one of our youth get home to his father. **William B.'s** dad lives in Texas and had no funding for the bus ride to the courthouse in New Orleans. Charlotte collected enough money to purchase the bus ticket, along with a little extra spending

money to get him started. A message from Charlotte Shyne:

Because of the best in us, a youth whose life had become derailed and sense of self compromised, was provided an opportunity to return to the mainstream of life with a renewed perspective, practical life skills and a sense of dignity. As I observed William during the process of planning for his reintegration and knowing that people were coming together *just to help him*; then witnessing the final stage of being placed in the care of his father and receiving the generous gifts provided by **Team Swanson**, he seemed to take a huge step in the ongoing process of evolving. As William has begun the real work of learning how to live successfully, we will keep him in our prayers.

Team Swanson, the work we do every day makes critical life-affirming and life transformations possible—and should not be taken for granted.

Team Swanson - you rock! I salute the best in us.

With gratitude,  
*Charlotte Shyne*



*William B., left, with his father at the time of his release.*

### Pre-July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration

SCY held its annual pre-July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration, featuring a basketball game between the students and staff. The staff won in a close game. **JJS4 Charles “Big Shot” Donaldson** (we heard the Lakers are looking at a replacement for Kobe) delivered the knockout blow for the staff with a 30 foot, high arching jumper with 15 seconds on the clock that tied the game. Forced to foul, the students and **Coach Ricks aka Deputy Director Nadira Ricks**, could only watch in disappointment as **JJS2 Billye “Too Cool” Miller**, sank two free throws that sealed the game for the staff. MVP and high scorer for the staff was **JJS1 Raymece “Smooth” Savage** and for the students, **Brenton “Mr. Clutch” B.**

We had **Coach Ralph Moore** and **Coach Leon Harris** from **Hinds Community College** in Raymond, Mississippi, in attendance. Both coaches were impressed with the play by our students and with their sportsmanship. The coaches saw players they believe are capable of competing at the college level. In talking to the group following the game, they stressed the importance of a strong academic commitment and good moral character. They also expressed admiration for the behavior of the student body during the game.

Following the game, students and staff were treated to a delicious lunch, prepared by **“Chef” (Program Coordinator) John Preston** and **“Chef” (JJS5) Vernon Foy**, along with the dining hall staff. It was rumored that **Director Vickie Shoecraft** and **Social Worker Pam Green** may have tried their hands at flipping a couple of burgers.

After lunch, staff and youth enjoyed a talent show put on by **JJS4 Detrick Massey** and **JJS4 Patricia Williams**. Students performed rap and danced. The talent show was a great way to end a day of celebration.



*Free throw by JJS2 Billye Miller.*



*“MVPs” JJS1 Raymece Savage, Director Vickie Shoecraft, Youth Brenton B.*



*“Ricks & Coaches”- Coach Ralph Moore, Deputy Director Nadira Ricks and Coach Leon Harris.*



## Tallulah Regional Office

**RM Ruth Stephens, PPO Supervisor Johnnie Bowman, PPO Supervisor Margo Corulla, and AC4 Patricia Dense** honored and recognized Tallulah OJJ officers for Probation and Parole Officers week.

Breakfast was served one morning with **PPS Johnnie Bowman's** delicious breakfast casserole. **RM Stephens** baked her famous biscuits for another breakfast.



*Tallulah OJJ enjoys breakfast to celebrate P&P Appreciation Week.*

Everyone also enjoyed a favorite treat one morning in the form of the famous Shipley Donuts brought by **AC4 Patricia Dense**. On another day, when officers arrived they found a "happy treat" waiting for them on their desk. On Tuesday, **PPS Margo Corulla** cooked beef brisket, green beans with potatoes, and French bread for lunch.

During the luncheon, **RM Ruth Stephens** recognized everyone and presented each with a certificate of appreciation.

During that time, each person gave a short reflection of their life as a probation and parole officer and how they chose their career. They also shared feelings on how they think we are helping the lives of the youth we serve.

Thanks to all for what you do every day in working to meet the mission.

## Training Sessions Attended

Tallulah OJJ completed several training sessions and covered policy reviews.

PREA annual update/refresher training was conducted with Tallulah OJJ staff.

**PPO Truett Glass** attended the PPCT Instructor Recertification course conducted by the Baton Rouge Police Department.

## Congratulations

Tallulah OJJ would like to extend congratulations to **PPO Terri Berry** on the marriage of her daughter. **Whitni Nicole Berry** and **Bradley Jay Smith** were married at Trinity Baptist Church in Oak Grove. Best wishes to the new couple.

Birthday wishes went out for **PPS Johnnie Bowman, PPO Fred Laing** and **PPO LaJuana Harrell**, pictured below.



## Thibodaux Regional Office

### Congratulations

### Employee of the Month

**PPO3 Rachel Loupe** was selected **July Employee of the Month**. She is a valuable asset to our team here in Thibodaux.

Youth **Jonathon T.**, earned his GED. He was supervised by **PPO3 Allison Lirette**.

## Probation & Parole Officer's Week Celebrated

The probation officers enjoyed a variety selection of Duncan Donuts on Monday morning. On Wednesday afternoon, we enjoyed sampling gourmet cupcakes from OMG (Oh, My Goodness) Cupcake Factory. All we can say is WOW! What a delicious treat!

On Thursday morning, we had breakfast consisting of biscuits and little sausages wrapped in a blanket, and a lunch of barbecued hot dogs and hamburgers, chili, chips and condiments, while clerical staff treated everyone afterwards to ice cream for dessert.

We would like to thank RM Angela T. Koenig, Supervisors Robert Duet, Andi Ford, Vicky Marcel and Lorraine Thibodaux, Administrative Coordinators Theresa Molliere, Kim Foret and Doddie Picou, and Administrative Supervisor Cindy Oubre, for making our week special.

OMG Cupcake Factory goodies are pictured below.



*Almond (wedding) Cupcakes, top left corner, garnished with pearls.*

*Turtle Cupcakes, Fat Elvis Cupcakes, Red Velvet Cheesecake Cupcakes, Praline cupcakes, Cookie Cake Cupcakes.*



*PPO3 James Percle, left, and PPS Robert Duet, cooking up the delicious barbecue hamburgers and hot dogs pictured below.*



*PPO2 Peter Pobocik, PPO3 Josef Nguyen, PPO3 James Percle, PPS Robert Duet and PPO3 Josh Becnel, enjoying their meal and all enjoying each other's company.*



*Administrative Supervisor Cindy Oubre.*

*And yes....we were all stuffed ourselves. Before and after shots...*



*And, at the end, PPO3 James Percle, gives a big stretch after eating.*



setting with hope to boost their spirits with encouragement to do well this school year.



*Top, from left, Bradley R., SSC Reshonn Saul, Delmonte R., and Jahi R. sharing a meal together. Below, Delmonte R., and Jahi R. having a good time playing a game of checkers.*



### Annual Training Completed

Thibodaux OJJ staff completed the 16 hour annual PPCT Recertification. A huge kudos goes out to **PPO3 Josh Becnel**. It was his first time as a PPCT Instructor. He did a fantastic job. Also, a huge thanks goes out to **PPS Daphne Johnson** for traveling from New Orleans to assist Josh. All participants scored well on the written and practical exams. Good job!

### Second Annual Anger Management & Social Skills Counseling Day Conducted

**Social Services Coordinator Reshonn Saul** held her 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Anger Management/Social Skills Group Counseling "Social Day." **PPO3 Allison Lirette** enjoyed socializing with her youth in a different



*Bradley R., center, decided to join Jahi R. and Delmonte R.*



*From left, Jahi R., Bradley R., PPO3 Allison Lirette and Delmonte R.*





*PPO3 Allison Lirette and Bradley R. enjoying a game of checkers.*



*All are enjoying playing checkers and UNO from left, SSC Reshonn Saul, Jahi R., Bradley R, and Delmonte R.*



*The view from SCY Administrative Assistant Kristi Walker's porch.*

A short definition of VISION:

Three bricklayers were asked what they were doing.

The first said "I am laying bricks."

The second said "I am building a wall."

The third said "I am helping to build a temple."



## BCCY Culinary Arts & Occupations



### Chef Ronald J. Sonnier, CEC Recipe of the Month

It's back to school time again and we are off and running. We had a wonderful time at the Governor's Conference. The Culinary Arts students were showcased on Thursday afternoon, with a great selection of sweets for everyone to enjoy. When they left that show, they had a renewed and brighter vision of the work they do on campus.

Riverside High School held the annual Honors Ceremony where four of the Culinary Arts students received their Certification certificates for **ServSafe**, as well as other certificates that were handed out for their academic achievements.

We stay pretty busy here at *Bridge City Center for Youth*. I always tell everyone that comes into my classroom, "When it comes to working with kids, I have the best of jobs because they love to eat and learn how to prepare and present food. It's one of the best feelings on earth!" Have a great month and remember if you have any requests for recipes or food questions, please let me know at [ronald.sonnier@la.gov](mailto:ronald.sonnier@la.gov). *C'EST SI BON!*

#### One of my favorite dishes...



#### Southern Style Smothered Okra and Tomatoes

2 lbs. okra  
3 tbsp. oil  
1 tbsp. all-purpose flour

1 medium onion, chopped  
1 medium bell pepper, chopped  
2 ribs celery, chopped  
5 fresh tomatoes, chopped  
Creole seasoning to taste

Wash okra, cut in 1/8 inch slices. Fry in an aluminum pot on medium heat in 2 tablespoons oil until okra is no longer sticky. In another skillet, make a medium dark roux with 1 tablespoon oil and flour. Add onion, bell pepper, and celery. Simmer until tender. Add tomatoes and simmer for 5 minutes. Add okra, season with Creole seasoning and simmer for about an hour.

**These delicious treats were part of the dessert table for the Governors Conference....**



### **Butterscotch Peanut Butter Bars**

2 cups quick cooking oats  
1  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups firmly packed light brown sugar  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups all purpose flour  
1 tsp. baking powder  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. baking soda  
1 cup butter  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped peanuts  
1 cup semi-sweet butterscotch chips (6 oz. package)  
1 large egg, beaten  
1 can - 14 oz., sweetened condensed milk  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup creamy peanut butter

Preheat oven to 350°.

Combine oats, brown sugar, flour, baking powder and baking soda in a large bowl. Cut in butter with pastry blender or 2 knives until mixture resembles fine crumbs. Stir in peanuts. Reserve 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups crumb mixture. Stir egg into remaining crumb mixture. Press onto bottom of 13x9x2 inch baking pan.

Bake 15 minutes.

Stir together sweetened condensed milk and peanut butter in small bowl until well combined. Pour evenly over partially baked crust. Stir together reserved crumb mixture and butterscotch chips. Sprinkle evenly over peanut butter layer.

Bake an additional 15 minutes.

Cool. Cut into bars or squares.



# The Inside Scoop...of OJJ

*The Inside Scoop...of OJJ* is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

*The Inside Scoop...of OJJ* is produced by the Central Office with input from staff statewide.

...until next month

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